

# Al-Farooq

The Criterion

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## Shukr for a Ni'mah of Allah

### Allah's Rasool ﷺ and Our Responsibility

**T**he illustrious birth of Our August Master Hazrat Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) ranks as the single most important event in the history of this world that changed the course of life on earth as well as the destiny of millions of people. This great happening heralded the dawn of a new era in world history, and instilled a breath of fresh air into the ailing values of humankind. Coming at a time when humanity was at its lowest ebb, the Blessed Birth and more importantly, the glorious era of Prophethood that followed, proved to be mankind's ultimate salvation, and elevated the spiritual fortunes of humans to unprecedented heights. Our exaltation upon the Grand Birth is based exclusively on the fact that it was this birth that brought mankind's saviour into the world. The supreme success of his mission and the magnanimity of the spiritual revolution that he had achieved only shone through after Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) came into the lap of his illustrious mother Aaminah. Nothing of his Divine Triumphs and Spiritual Reforms was possible unless and until his mother had delivered him. Exactly for this reason do we express our boundless and limitless joy over the coming into existence of Our Great Master (sallallahu alayhi wasallam).

**CHRISTIANITY'S CLAIM**  
The Christians claim that Jesus

(Nabi Eesa alayhis-salaam) was the "Saviour of Mankind". A simple challenge to this claim is that the majority of Christians today have nothing to show for the sacrifices and efforts of Nabi Eesa (alayhis-salaam). They do not adhere to his teachings, do not resemble his dress and appearance, and are in fact distorting his true teachings and words. How then can Christians claim they will be saved through Jesus? There is no teaching in any of the religious scriptures or texts, (even the adulterated versions) that make such absurd and preposterous claims: that a man will achieve salvation in the hereafter by paying mere lip service to a religion regardless of what sin and destruction he wrought in this world. Such ideology is farcical and deceptive.

#### MUHAMMAD ﷺ: THE REAL SAVIOUR

On the contrary, The Noble Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) truly emancipated mankind from eternal doom by leaving behind a system of belief and practice that gave every individual the opportunity to earn his or her success in the life hereafter. By adopting this Divine Legacy and truly practicing on its teachings amidst diverse and testing challenges, the Believer entitles himself to a share in the Blessed and Eternal Life of the Hereafter. *"And whosoever shall seek a religion other than Islam, it shall never ever be ac-*

*cepted from him. And such a person shall be among the lost ones in the hereafter"* (Al-Quran) The aforementioned thus accentuates the profoundness of the Mission of Our Master and Saviour (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), and the efficacy of his wonderful teachings.

#### IS THE CUSTOMARY MEELAAD A FORM OF GRATITUDE OR A DISPLAY OF DISOBEDIENCE?

Every Rabiul-Awwal it has become a custom among certain segments of the Ummah to celebrate the Meelaad or Birth of Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). They call it Mouloud, Eid Meelaadun-Nabi, and Mawlid. The ostensible idea of this practice is to display love for Allah's Messenger. But is that really the case?

Well, observing the practices that accompany such gatherings we can safely say that these celebrations are a far cry from the Sunnah and Lifestyle of Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). There are blatant violations of the very Shariah of our Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). We enlist hereunder the most severe of these acts:

- A) Intermingling of men and women;
- B) Discard of Islamic dress code by Muslim females in a gather-

ing that is supposedly an ibaadah;

- C) Singing of Qasidas to the beat of drums;
- D) In some Meelaad functions women will render the naat recitals, or groups of both men and women (styled “nasheed groups” like the kuffar bands and singing artists) will do the recitals. In some areas one would find dancing as well, as part of the zikr of certain misguided Sufi sects
- E) Videoing and photography
- F) Abandonment of the Sunnats of eating.

These are some of the transgressions of Shariah that occur in Meelaad celebrations. I cannot for the life of me understand why, after years of experience, the votaries of Meelaad to this day have failed to eradicate these evils from their Meelaad celebrations, whilst they are fully aware that Our Rasool (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), the Saviour and Emancipator of mankind from Jahannum, clearly and lucidly prohibited acts of this nature. Instead, they continue to cling onto lame, feeble, and irrelevant arguments in an effort to validate their Meelaad activities while serious contraventions of the Sunnah are ignored.

### AN IMPORTANT MAS'ALA

*It is haraam to attend any function, be it a wedding, a jalsa, a symposium, a conference, a birthday party, a Meelaad celebration, or even a common get-together wherein all or some of the above evils are perpetrated.* (Al-Fataawal-Hindiyya and other Fiqh works)

### THE NOBLE BIRTH

To express happiness and joy over the Noble Birth of Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) is without doubt an act of enormous reward. In fact, it is part and parcel of iemaan. A Muslim who does not admit to being happy over the Birth of Our Rasool is not a Muslim at all. However, such expression of happiness and joy cannot be confined to any specific time or place. The mag-

nificent code of conduct that Our Noble Messenger lived by and propagated permeates every aspect of our lives, each and every day. We are constrained to express joy over his birth and existence every single day of our lives. His Sunnah and Blessed lifestyle shines out to us at every step and turn we take in life. We are, therefore, constantly reminded of his dominance over our lives and of the pronounced effect his personality has had on our existence. Each time a moment like this arises, it is cause for renewed joy and happiness.

Almighty Allah boasts of this favour upon the Believers in His usual patronizing manner that is His Divine Right: ***“Without doubt, Allah has conferred a great favour on the Believers when He sent among them a Messenger from their own kind ..... (Surah Aala Imraan, verse 164)***

We, therefore, need to offer shukr or thanksgiving to Allah for this Great Bounty that is Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) on a daily basis. This is a haqq that our Rasool enjoys over us.

### SHUKR FOR THE GREAT GIFT MUHAMMAD ﷺ

The greatest *ni'mat* on this Ummat is the Life of Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Our thanksgiving has to be on par with or as close as possible to the level of this supreme and ultimate *ni'mat*. Ulema have, therefore, identified five huqooq or rights that Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) deserves from every single member of his Ummat. These are:

- 1) Following his **Sunnah** to the best of our ability
- 2) To obey his **instructions** and **commandments**
- 3) To **love** and **revere** him to the highest degree
- 4) To **love** and **revere** his family and Sahaaba
- 5) To observe **durood** in abundance. (Durood means to send

salawaat and salaam upon the Holy and Sacred Messenger of Allah – sallallahu alayhi wasallam)

A unique aspect of the above five points is that they are all inter-linked and inter-dependent. If a Muslim loves his Prophet he will obey him and follow his sunnah; that in turn will lead to recitation of abundant durood. Likewise, loving the Prophet will necessarily result in love for his family and Sahaaba. A person who claims he loves Allah's Messenger but does not show love to his family is false and hypocritical. In like fashion, one who expresses hatred for his Sahaaba in word or action cannot claim that he loves Allah's Messenger; instead such an individual is deviant and out of the fold of Shariah. Following his sunnah will generate love for Our Master, and the reverse is also true. By the same token, one who claims love for Our Master yet disregards his sunnah and violates his commands, will be deemed a false claimant to love. Recitation and observance of abundant durood, with sincerity and in the correct manner, will also serve to generate Love for Our Rasool and subsequent adherence to his Sunnah. In fact, observing durood in an incorrect manner and in contradiction to the set principles of Shariah will bring Allah's Displeasure instead of reward. Such durood will not create Love for Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam)

### THE COMMAND OF NABI MUHAMMAD ﷺ

is akin to the **Command of Allah**. Time and again, the Holy Quran teaches: *Obey Allah and Obey the Rasool.... He who obeys the Rasool has obeyed Allah....*

Rasoolullah ﷺ said: *What Allah's Messenger has made haraam is like that which Allah has made haraam. (Ibn Majah)*

In summary, the Rights of Rasoolullah ﷺ over us entail loving him, following his Sunnah, and obeying his commands. ﷻ

## The Miraculous Name

### MUHAMMAD صلى الله عليه وسلم

In recent times people have discovered the inscription of the Name Muhammad in many places, such as the skins of animals, on the flesh of animals, and even on the moon when it is in full bloom. Subhanallah! Below are incidents of the past that chronicle some of the places where the wonderful name Muhammad was found written

► In the Jaami Musjid of Cordoba, Spain, there is a red-coloured column on which the name 'Muhammad' is inscribed naturally.

► Hazrat Umar (radhiyallahu anhu) narrates that Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

"When Nabi Adam (alayhis-salaam) made taubah unto Allah, he said: "O Allah! Forgive me through the Medium of Muhammad!" Allah Ta'ala then asked him: "And how do you know Muhammad?" Adam (alayhis-salaam) replied: "O My Lord! When you created me and instilled in me of Your Soul, I stood up and saw this writing on the foot of Your Throne: **Laa ilaaha illallah; Muhammadur-Rasoolullah**. I then realized that you will only add to Your Name one who is most beloved unto You." Allah replied: "Indeed, that is so!"

► Some narrations have it that the Blessed Name 'Muhammad' was written on the gates, domes, tents, leaves, and trees of Jannah.

► Once The Khalifa Hazrat Umar (radhiyallahu anhu) requested Ka'ab Al-Ahbaar to tell them about the virtue of Rasoolullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) as mentioned in the Taurah. He replied: "Indeed, O Commander of the Faithful. I have read in the Scriptures that once The Prophet Ibrahim Al-Khaleel (alayhis-salaam) came across a stone upon which four lines of writing were inscribed. The first read: **I am Al-**

**lah, there is no God besides Me, so Worship Me alone.** The second line read: **I am Allah, there is no God besides Me. Muhammad is my Messenger. Congratulations to he who believes in him and follows him.**" The third line read: **I am Allah, there is no God besides Me, The Haram (of Makka) is Mine and the Ka'aba is my House. Whoever enters My House shall be safe from My Punishment.** (The narrator of this incident could not recall the fourth line). (Seerah Al-Halabiyyah)

► Muhammad bin Adeel bin

**One who begets a baby boy and names him 'Muhammad' out of love for me and to achieve barakah through my name, he and his child shall be in Jannah - Jaami-ul Ahadeeth**

Rab'eeah (radhiyallahu anhu) narrates that he once asked his father why he (the father) had named him 'Muhammad' even before the birth of Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) (when such a name was hitherto unknown among the Arabs). His father told him the following story: "Once I was with a group of the Banu Tameem on a journey. En route we stopped by a monastery, where the monk living therein came out to greet us. When he heard that we were from Makkah, he exclaimed: "O Arabs! From among you shall rise up a Prophet!" We then all ran to him in excitement and curiosity. Some asked him: "Tell us the name of that Prophet?" He said: "MUHAMMAD". Subsequently all those present in our group named their next male child 'Muhammad'.

► An incident in Tabaristan

(which is the northern region of Iran, on the coast of the Caspian Sea) has been narrated by some Ulema: In that area lived a group of people who never believed in the Holy Prophet Muhammad, expressing their belief only in the oneness of Allah. This group naturally caused a great fitnah among the Muslims of that area by misleading them from the Truth. On one extremely hot day there appeared a white cloud in the sky. Gradually the size of this cloud grew until it had spread over the entire town, even blotting out the sun. When it was zawaal (mid-day), a miraculous inscription appeared clearly and distinctly on the cloud. It read: **LAA ILAAHA ILLALLAH; MUHAMMADUR RASOOLULLAH**. This phenomenon remained from Zuhr Sa-

laah till the time of Asr. All those who had previously rejected the Messenger of Allah now suddenly started to believe in him and reaffirmed their iemaan. A large number of Jews and Christians in the town embraced Islam on account of

this miracle.

► Hazrat Jaabir (radhiyallahu anhu) narrates that between the shoulders of Nabi Adam alayhis-salaam was written "**Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of Prophets**"

► From Khurasaan a report came that a child was born with **LAA ILAAHA ILLALLAH** written on one side of the body, and **MUHAMMADUR RASOOLULLAH** written on the other side.

► Even more amazing than this was the story of a man who lived in Morocco. On the bottom of his right eye, inside the white, the following words were written in red and were clearly visible: **MUHAMMADUR RASOOLULLAH!** (It was never possible in those days to tattoo the white of the eye, and I doubt if that is possible even in today's age of high tech advancement!)

(Continued on page 4)

► It is narrated from Shaikh Abdul-Wahhab Shi'raani *rahimahul-lahu ta'ala*, a great Shaafi, Soofi Scholar of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century Hijri, in his book titled *Lawaaqihul-Anwaar*: "One day, whilst writing this book, I was made to witness a miracle of *Nubuwwah*. A man came to me with the head of a lamb that he just slaughtered. On its forehead the following sentences were distinctly visible: *There is no God but Allah! Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; Allah has sent him with Guidance and with the Religion of Truth; He guides whom He wishes through Muhammad; He guides whom He wishes through Muhammad.*" (The repetition of the last sentence, as some Ulema claim, is to enunciate beyond doubt that guidance ONLY comes through Muhammad)

All the above incidents and reports were derived from the book *As-Seerah Al-Halabiya* by Shaikh Ali bin Ebrahim Al-Halabi (D. 1044– Aleppo) ❁

#### A STATEMENT OF HUZHAIFA BIN YAMAAN

Hazrat Huzhaifa bin Yaman ❁ said: "If an act of worship was not done by the Sahaaba, then you, too, should not do it, for indeed the former people (i.e. the Ashaab of Rasoolullah ❁) did not leave for the latter people any scope (to make additions to the Deen).

#### INNOVATION IN DEEN

Hazrat Ayesha (radhiyallahu anhaa) narrates that Rasoolullah ❁ said: "Whoever introduces into this matter of ours (i.e. Islam) that which does not belong to it, will be rejected." (Bukhari)

This hadith condemns acts that do not belong to Islam but are, instead, foreign to this Deen; practices that are not part of Islam. To consider a non-devotional act as an act of worship is an innovation in Deen. ❁

## PRACTICAL DAY-TO-DAY SUNNATS

### THE USE OF SURMAH

The Ithmid surma has been mentioned with glowing praise in authentic ahadith. Rasoolullah encouraged the ummat to use it, for ithmid improves the eyesight and helps with growth of eyelashes. (Musannaf Ibni Abi Shaibah)

Hazrat Ali says that one day during Ramadaan Rasoolullah ❁ emerged from the house of Umme Salma (radhiyallahu anhaa) She had applied full surmah to his eyes. (Musnad-e-Haarith)

The Messenger of Allah ❁ used to apply surmah thrice in each eye before sleeping. (Tirmizhi— He also mentions the use of Ithmid at night)

In the Book of Ibn Majah it is reported that Rasoolullah ❁ said: *Whoever applies surmah should do so thrice. This is better. If not, there is no sin.* (That is, no sin in applying less than three times)

### THE ITTAR OF RASOOLULLAH ❁

The following facts were derived from a number of hadith sources

- Rasoolullah ❁ loved the flower of the henna plant.
- He loved perfume from sweet smelling plants, like the rose, myrtle, etc.
- He also loved musk and oud perfume. The oud that he used came from a place in India.
- He also used amber or ambergris.
- Sometimes he would use a perfume mixture called *ghaaliyah* that included oud, musk, ambergris, and olive oil.
- He used another type of perfume mixture called *sukkah*. From this we realize that mixing various forms of ittar, like we have the famous *majmoo'ah*, is also a sunnah.

### THE BED OF RASOOLULLAH ❁

Imam Manaawi mentions in his book *Faidhul-Qadeer* on the authority of Allama Ibnu Qutaybah that the bed of Rasoolullah ❁ consisted of a wooden frame across which date fibres were strapped (i.e. strips of date branches). The bed had four legs. Sometimes this bed was used without a sheet or mattress, thus causing marks on the Blessed Body of Our Rasool ❁.

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